

Appl. No. : 10/070,914  
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## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 6, last paragraph starting on line 28, please amend the Specification as follows:

--Figure 4a illustrates an alternative embodiment of the invention in which the base of the groove is curved along its length and in its centre, measured along the longitudinal direction or length of the groove defines a laterally extending loading channel 43 having a depth of 0.5mm and a width w, measured in the longitudinal direction of the groove, of 2 mm. The curved base allows the maximum depth of the groove at its longitudinal centre to be 2 mm, so it can contain more rehydration liquid. The curved floor of the rehydration area supports the IPG strip well. The height h of the end walls 43 is 0.5 mm.--